

REP. KATE HOGAN'S SENIOR NEWS

Seasonal Resources



Autumn is upon us, and with it some perennial truths: the cider will be delicious, the leaves along the Assabet beautiful, and winter is just around the corner.

This is also the time of year that many seniors start to think about the cost of heating their home over the winter. This year, the cost of other staples may be an issue too.

Following are some local, regional, and state resources that could be useful for seniors. The good people at our COA are always able to help when applying for assistance:

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

Residents who are experiencing a loss of income are urged to consult with their utility to see if they may qualify for the utility's low-income rate, arrearage management programs (AMP), or the federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Customers may qualify for low-income assistance, even if they haven't in the past, as eligibility is based on the last four weeks of gross household income. The AMP provides for an individualized payment plan that, if followed, allows the customer to have forgiven all or a portion of an outstanding unpaid balance. In order to qualify for LIHEAP, customers must have a household income that does not exceed 60 percent of the state median income.

Good Neighbor Energy Fund

If you don't qualify for federally funded assistance programs, you can apply for the Salvation Army's Good Neighbor Energy Fund. The Good Neighbor Energy Fund can help Massachusetts residents experiencing a temporary crisis which has left them without enough money to pay their utility bill, but do not qualify for federally funded assistance programs. To apply for assistance, contact your local Salvation Army Assistance Center.

To make a contribution to the Good Neighbor Energy Fund, please visit the Salvation Army's website. You can also mail a check payable to "Good Neighbor Energy Fund" directly to The Salvation Army at 25 Shawmut Road, Canton, MA 02021-1408.

SNAP Gap

There are 659,340 people in Massachusetts who are eligible for, but not enrolled in, the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP), also known as food stamps. This might be you—if you're not sure where to start, call Project Bread's free, confidential, multilingual hotline and they will walk you through your application: 1-800-645-8333.

Mortgage and Rental Payment Assistance

If you're looking for help with housing costs, you're not alone. State and local organizations are distributing federal rental assistance in our communities. Many programs take applications from both landlords and renters who are struggling to keep up with rent and other bills. There is no fee to apply for Massachusetts' Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) and free help is available to complete applications. The South Middlesex Opportunity Council, Inc. (SMOC) can assist you in applying.

Kate Hogan, State Representative

Proudly represents Bolton, Hudson, Maynard, and Stow

Contact Rep. Hogan:

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